



MATWATCH

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VOL. 4, NO. 12

WRESTLEMANIA VII EDITION

MARCH 25-31

Third Time's a Charm

HOGAN DOES IT IN 20:25 TO CAP WRESTLEMANIA VII

LOS ANGELES---Ending three months of controversy over exploitation of the Persian Gulf War, Hulk Hogan defeated Sgt. Slaughter with his patented legdrop in 20:25 of the main event of WRESTLEMANIA VII Sunday night to regain the WWF world heavyweight championship.

The Hogan victory was far less dramatic than last year's intense loss to The Ultimate Warrior in Toronto. Virtually the entire Los Angeles Sports Arena expected a Hogan victory. The early match was a slow standoff until Hogan went to a brawling offense. He controlled matters until 3:50 when Slaughter stuck a finger in Hogan's eye. Sarge brawled until a Hogan rally for three near-falls. At the 9:00 mark, Hogan scored two elbow drops and went to the top rope where he was tripped by Gen. Adnan.

Slaughter threw Hogan out and chaired him twice before wrapping his neck in a camera cable. After a near-fall, Slaughter applied a Boston crab for more than a minute before releasing it and crashing down from the top on Hogan's kidney. A third chair to head of Hogan brought heavy juice. At the 18:00 mark, Slaughter applied the camel clutch twice, then covered Hogan for a 2 1/2 count. But an attempt to wrap Hogan in the Iraqi flag spurred on the Superman comeback. Hogan tore up the flag, used the boot to the face, then powered onto Slaughter with the legdrop for the win at 20:25 and a third title reign. **MATCH RATING: RESTHOLD....even with the juice and false finishes, it wasn't even an average match, lethargic and had too many cliches.**

LOVE STORY: RANDY LOSES BUT WINS BACK LIZ

LOS ANGELES----Nelson Eddy and Jeannette MacDonald. Lucy and Desi. Randy and Elizabeth???

In what may have been the most brilliantly-conceived climax in the history of Vince McMahon's World Wrestling Federation, Randy Savage was defeated by The Ultimate Warrior in a "retirement" match in 20:46 Sunday night. But while Randy may have "lost" his career, he won back his fictitious lady, The Lovely Miss Elizabeth (real-life wife Liz Poffo).

Both from crowd heat and match intensity, the Warrior-Savage confrontation was THE match of WRESTLEMANIA VII. Warrior had Savage pinned for an eight-count during a ref bump at the 11-minute mark. Sherri Martel, in an attempt to nail Warrior, creamed Randy with her shoe. Warrior chased Sherri but eventually was ambushed by Savage. Randy came off with his flying elbow from the top rope five times and scored a 2 7/8 count on Warrior at 14:35. Warrior finally reached the ropes for his rally and after three clotheslines, a press slam and splash, scored a 2 1/2. But looking to the sky for a "sign," Ult appeared to be ready to abandon the ring. Finally, on Ult's return, he delivered a clothesline and two spears for the fatal fall and the so-called "end" to Savage's career.

Sherri went into a furious rage and kicked at Savage. Finally, Liz who had come to ringside for the match, climbed over the barricade and Sherri exited. A crying Liz did everything short of sing the Indian Love Call. A groggy Savage came to his feet, a bit confused why Liz was there. But when the ref at last told Randy Sherri was responsible for his plight, he took Liz in his arms and all was right with the world. **MATCH RATING: PINFALL!....yeah, Warrior is always better than he really is when the match is well-booked but this is a story we'll remember for years to come. Indeed, the highlight of the night and year.**

Road Warriors Next???

NASTY CHAMPS DEFEAT HARTS

LOS ANGELES---Only ten months ago, they were still scratching out a living in Florida.

Thanks, in part, to exposure provided by Ole Anderson last summer and fall, the Nasty Boys are now the WWF world tag team champions. The Nasties upset the Hart Foundation with the help of Jimmy Hart's megaphone in 12:12 Sunday night.

Lots of power moves and offense and twice the Nasties appeared to kill their own threat as Brian Knobbs hit Jerry Saggs once and later, the two collided.

Late in the match, Jim Neidhart went into a flurry and scored near-falls with two power-slams at 11:40. But as all four hit the ring, the ref was distracted and Hart tossed his megaphone in the ring. Bret Hart was creamed and a dazed Knobbs draped over him for the fall and title.

The win is a prelude to an expected Nasties-Legion of Doom series which may last through SUMMER SLAM over the WWF belts.

MATCH RATING: DRAW-PLUS....a little bit better than average but not nearly as strong as the announcers painted the picture.

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L.A.
STORY

ROCKERS D. HAKU/BARBAR- IAN:

Haku tossed Shawn around early and the Barbarian scored a double clothesline on the Rockers. But Shawn & Marty rallied for a double dropkick. At 4:40, Haku/Barb teamed for a slingshot clothesline off the top on Marty. Haku scored with 2 backbreakers. But Marty dropkicked from the top and Shawn scored a flying fist on Haku for the win at 10:33. DRAW-PLUS.

KERRY VON ERICH D. DINO BRAVO: This one confounded those who felt Kerry was on his way out with a squash. Dino's side suplex for a near-fall at 1:50 was countered by Kerry's claw at 2:35. Kerry won it with a spin punch at 3:04. BOMB-PLUS.

DAVEY BOY SMITH D. WARLORD: Davey Boy softened Warlord early with shoulderblocks but Warlord escaped crucifix at 2:00. Warlord applied bearhug a minute later. Warlord followed with a hot shot and belly-to-belly for near-falls. At 7:00, Warlord got full nelson. Davey escaped & did running shoulder slam for win at 8:12. DRAW-PLUS.

BLINDFOLD MATCH/JAKE ROBERTS D. RICK MARTEL: Lots of crowd heat here as Jake would point & crowd yelled to guide him. But this was more like a kid's game. At 6:00, Rick almost grabbed Damien's bag. At 7:20, Martel found steel chair but swung it at post. At 7:50, Rick connected w. backbreaker & Boston crab but Jake escaped. At 8:22, Jake DDT'd Martel and pinned him at 8:34. Martel went for the Arrogance after but Jake tossed Damien at Rick, who fled. RESTHOLD-PLUS.

UNDERTAKER D. JIMMY SNUKA: Talk about a squash! Mark, other than a couple of headbutts, destroyed Snuka, finishing him with the tombstone in 4:20. RESTHOLD.

GENICHIRO TENRYU/KOJI KITAO D. DEMOLITION: Little buildup for the Japanese and the crowd, predictably, didn't know who they were. Demo offered the ambush attack & Fuji hit Kitao with cane early. At the 4:00 mark, Kitao knocked Crush off the top but Crush rallied to kick Kitao in the head. Tenryu tagged and powerbombed Barry for the win in 4:54. BOMB-PLUS.

EARTHQUAKE D. GREG VALENTINE: After 'Quake gained a near-fall with an early slam, Greg rallied and went for the figure-4 at 2:20. But Greg missed on an offensive flurry and Tenta tremored him for the win in 3:35. BOMB-PLUS...quick & dirty.

LEGION OF DOOM D. POWER & GLORY: Another get it over quick affair. P&G attacked pre-bell but Hawk countered with a double clothesline. It was over in 2:00 with the bombs away clothesline on Roma. RESTHOLD.

VIRGIL D. TED DIBIASE (COUNTOUT): Virg started out with Muhammad Ali-like footwork and tossed Ted out but Ted rallied for two near-fall suplexes and tossed Virgil out. Ted pile-drove & suplexed Virg for two-counts. Roddy Piper used his crutch to make Ted fall out of the ring & Ted decked Roddy. While he did, Ted was counted out of the ring in 7:55. POST-MATCH: Ted put the sleeper on Virgil and Sherri Martel came out for a further attack on Roddy's leg. Virg pleads with Roddy to "get up" and he does with Virg's help. DRAW.

MOUNTIE D. TITO SANTANA: I don't know what was more of an insult: Snuka's squash or this. This filler ended in 1:20 when Tito was creamed with the cattle prod in the gut. BOMB!!

Andre Gets Involved

BOSSMAN CAN'T GRAB I-C BELT

LOS ANGELES----Big Bossman may have gained a measure of revenge for mama but could not capture the WWF Intercontinental title here Sunday night.

Bossman won by disqualification over Curt Hennig in 9:52 in the I-C title bout when Haku and the Barbarian ran in to break up an attempted Bossman pin. The fall attempt had been set up when Andre the Giant came to ringside and clobbered Hennig with the I-C title belt during a ref distraction.

With both Hennig and Bossman down, a double count had begun. Bossman rose first and was about to pin Hennig when the Heenan Family members intervened. Andre entered and he and Bossman cleaned house.

MATCH RATING: DRAW...not a spectacular Hennig match.

'MANIA MEMOS

Our thanks to Chris Crosby for contributing to this report...While I thought the ROYAL RUMBLE was the best-produced WWF PPV I've ever seen, this one was barely average. Production values were fine, though there were a few blips but Hogan-Slaughter was way too slow and other than the spectacular Warrior-Savage-Liz setup, there were more bad and so-so matches than good...Gorilla Monsoon offered enough cliches to make Gordon Solie appear to be the most original phrasemaker in the business...If Gorilla had said, "History is being made..." or "This is the largest pay-per-view audience in the history of pay-per-view," one more time, I'd have strangled my set...Heenan was his usual strong self and did a tremendous job of selling in both the finale and Warrior-Savage...The instant replay thing was a bomb and the only purpose it served was so George Steinbrenner could be called a butthead...I contend year after year this show is a half-hour too long and that was true again. You don't need 14 matches to make this the flagship show in wrestling...Alex Trebek is every bit as good a ring announcer as he is a game show host...But Regis Philbin wasn't exactly a Dan Dierdorf in the booth for the main event...Can anyone figure why Marla Maples was there? Did you care?...Loved it when Chuck Norris started mentioning all those old-timers, including Professor Tanaka...Do Lou Ferrigno and Andre the Giant go to the same linguist?...Ole Anderson may have been the worst booker in the Ted Turner history of the NWA but the exposure he gave the Nasty Boys is a key reason why they're the WWF tag champs today...Vince had no choice but to go back to Hogan for the arenas. But he better be developing a "what next" plan. This guy is not going to continue forever and a long-term plan has to be developed to pass the torch without keeping the focus on Hogan...I'm told a lot of the tears in the audience after Warrior-Savage came from crowd plants.

MATWATCH 25 SCALE

QUALITY OF MATCHES	2.3
ANNOUNCING	3.0
CROWD ENTHUSIASM	4.4
TOTAL PRODUCTION	4.3
OVERALL EXCELLENCE OF SHOW	3.2
TOTAL RATING	17.2

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(WWF/SYN) - [CHALLENGE]:

Kerry Von Erich d. Cliff Sheets; Nasty Boys d. Randy Hunter/Pat Armstrong; Rick Martel d. Kelly Davis; Undertaker d. Dale Wolfe; (WM7 REPORT); Tito Santana d. Pez Whatley. BOMB-PLUS.
[SUPERSTARS]: Legion of Doom d. Chris Sullivan/Keith Steinborn; (From USA) Hulk Hogan d. Gen. Adnan by DQ when Sgt. Slaughter jumps Hulk & pounds him w. Iraqi flag; Earthquake d. Scotty Williams but Masked Beefcake runs in, headbutts Tenta out of ring & chases Jimmy Hart; Mountie d. Dan Brazil by countout; Kevin Greenough d. Ted DiBiase when Virgil comes to ringside for standoff w. Ted; (WM7 REPORT); Jim Duggan d. Alan Martin. RESTHOLD-PLUS.

(LPWA) - [LPWA TAG TITLE]: Judy Martin/Lelani Kai d. Misty Blue Simmes/Heidi Lee Morgan 2-3 falls to win belt. In 3rd fall, Queen Chris Love tosses purse to Martin who clangs Misty on head; Terri Power d. LaGata; Reggie Bennett d. Comrade Orga; (LOUISVILLE SLUGGER) Bugaloo Brown congrats Queen but Bad, Black & Beautiful isn't happy about title change. DRAW.

(USWA/SYN) - [CHALLENGE]: Night Train Jackson d. Dog of War; Jeff Jarrett d. Ed Robinson; Tom Prichard d. Jarrett w. loaded boot; Prichard d. Billy Joe Travis; (LT. HWT. TITLE) El Grande Pistolero d. Danny Davis to win belt; Bill Dundee/Gary Young d. Steve Austin/Eric Embry but Young doubleteamed after. RESTHOLD-PLUS.

[BEST OF CHAMPIONSHIP]: Jackson d. Sgt. O'Reilly; (VIDEO) Texas Hangmen; (REPLAY) Jeff Gaylord attacks Dundee; Gaylord d. Ron Leach but Dundee saves; (MINIDOC) 8-minute retrospective of Jerry Lawler's career; (From MSC) Danny Davis-El Grande Pistolero double countout; Embry/Prichard d. Curtis Thompson/Collins; Jarrett d. Austin but eight heels jump Jeff after until Eddie Gilbert chases them with chair; (REPLAY) Embry/Prichard heel stunts. RESTHOLD-PLUS.

(USWA/ESPN) - Jackson d. Dog of War; Jarrett d. Robinson; Cody Michaels d. John Tatum by DQ; Prichard d. Jarrett w. loaded boot; Dundee/Young d. Austin/Embry plus post-match attack; (LT. HWT. TITLE) Pistolero d. Davis. RESTHOLD-PLUS.

(PRO WRESTLING '91) - Jim Powell d. Tim Strong; Joel Deaton d. Joseph Magliano; (LPWA) Simmes/Morgan d. LaGata/Orga; (REPLAY) Dixie Mafia d. Allen Horne/Mac Waters; Festus d. John Brewer; (GAS TAG TOURNEY) PYTs d. Chic Donovan/John Michaels when Timmy D. (Tim Dix) decks Chic w. loaded fanny pack. RESTHOLD.

(AWA CLASSICS) - [COAL MINERS MATCH]: Jimmy Snuka d. Col. DeBeers; (AWA LT. HWT. TITLE) Buck Zumhofe d. Steve Regal to win belt; (AWA WORLD TITLE) Rick Martel d. Michael Hayes by DQ to retain belt when Terry Gordy/Buddy Roberts run in; (VIDEO) Bruiser Brody with paramedics standing by; Jim Brunzell d. Brody when Frank uses chair. Tony Atlas saves. RESTHOLD-PLUS.

(IWCCW) - Ray Oddysey d. Dennis Allen; (SEGMENT) Bill Apter brings PWI Press Conference to IWCCW; Hawaiian Hurricane/Cactus Jack Manson d. Ebony & Ivory; Undertaker d. Tommy Angel when Boston Bad Boy runs in; (RUMBLE SEAT) Tony Rumble w. Cannonball; (From WWA) Thor d. Coyote; (WWA 6-MAN) Texas Hangmen/Killer Psycho win squash; (WWA) Frankie Lancaster d. Speedy Gonzalez. BOMB-PLUS.

TV TEMPO

March 18-24

(SOUTH ATLANTIC) - [3/10]: Chris Chavis d. Nazi Stormtrooper; Vince Torelli d. American G.I.; Sam Houston d. Robert Campbell; Ivan Koloff d. Jimmy White; (SEGMENT) Frank Dusek announces Fantastics regain SAPW tag belts; (LOSERS LEAVE SAPW) Fantastics d. Pit Bulldogs. BOMB-PLUS.
[3/17]: Tommy Seabolt d. Smasher Stone; (From 11/18/90) Paul Jones d. Robert Fuller on restart after Jones had been quick counted while Fuller used ropes; G.I./White d. Houston/Fuller by DQ. Sam/Robert doubleteam G.I. after. Fantastics save; Russell Hart d. Leroy Ramsey by DQ; Fantastics d. White Knight/Terry Thomas; Chavis d. Torelli. RESTHOLD.

(UWF) - [2 Wks. Ago]: Steve Williams d. Carmine Albanio; Wet 'n' Wild d. Power Twins by DQ when Twins don't stop double teaming; (CAPT. LOU'S CORNER) Cactus Jack; B. Brian Blair d. Bob Orton Jr. by DQ. BOMB.
[Last Week]: Chris Michaels d. The Viper; Power Twins d. Albanio/Brian Donahue; (CAPT. LOU'S CORNER) Twins; Don Muraco d. Dusty Wolfe but Steve Williams runs in on Muraco after before Paul Orndorff saves w. 2x4; Cactus/Orton draw vs. Wet 'n' Wild; (REPLAY) Orndorff-Williams lumberjack match. BOMB.

(NEW JAPAN) - [3/2]: Seiji Aoyagi/Masa Chono d. Masanobu Kurisu/Bad News Brown by countout. Riki Choshu runs in & hits both Kurisu/Aoyagi w. chair; (EGG DOME UPDATE) Sting, Butch Reed/Ron Simmons; Hiro Saito/Super Strong Machine d. Destruction Crew; (6-MAN) Keiji Mutoh/Tatsumi Fujinami/Choshu d. Big Van Vader/Tony St. Clair/Brad Rheingans. RESTHOLD-PLUS.
[3/9]: (IWGP/NEW JAPAN WORLD TITLE) Fujinami d. Vader; Fujinami/Choshu d. Brown/Vader. Choshu goes after Vader post-match but Tiger Jeet Singh attacks Choshu; (NEW JAPAN/IWGP WORLD TAG TITLE) Hiroshi Hase/Kensuke Sasaki d. Saito/Machine to win belts. POWERSLAM-PLUS.

(ALL-JAPAN) - [3/4]: Jumbo Tsuruta/Masanobu Fuchi d. Tsuyoshi Kikuchi/Kenta Kobashi; (WRESTLING NEWS) Rocky Laukea d. Richard Slinger; (PWF/ALL JAPAN WORLD TAG TITLE) Steve Williams/Terry Gordy d. Mitsuhashi Misawa/Toshiaki Kawada to retain belts. POWERSLAM-PLUS.
[3/11]: (ALL JAPAN WORLD JR. HWT. TITLE) Masanobu Fuchi d. Dean Malenko to retain belt; Misawa/Kawada d. Blackhearts; (6-MAN) Tsuruta/Akira Taue/Yoshinari Ogawa d. Williams/Gordy/Slinger. DRAW.

(LUCHA LIBRE) - Emilio Charles Jr./Herodes/El Vampiro Canadiense d. La Fiera/El Dandy/Atlantis 2 straight falls; El Gigante Kimala/El Satanico/Pierroth Jr. d. Ringo Mendoza/El Rayo de Jalisco Jr./Norman Smiley 2-3; (TRIANGULAR DE LA MUERTE) Mascara Ano Dos Mil d. Konan el Barbaro when Perro Aguayo trips up Konan; (HAIR VS. HAIR) Pirata Morgan d. MS 1, 2-3. RESTHOLD-PLUS.

(WCW/TBS) - [POWER HOUR]: Dustin Rhodes d. Joe Cezana; Terrence Taylor d. Tommy Angel but Tom Zenk runs in, decks Taylor over top; (WNN) Gordon w. Eaton-Landell-Taylor saga; Stan Hansen d. Jim Boss; Steiners d. Mark Kyle/Randy Starr; (UPDATE) Jim Ross says tapes of Flair-Fujinami Egg Dome match have been "subpoenaed"; Tommy Rich d. Sgt. Buddy Lee Parker by DQ when Lt. James Earl Wright runs in but Big Josh saves w. ax handle; (7-MAN) Flair/Sid Vicious/Barry Windham d. Ricky Nelson/Joey Maggs/Greg Sawyer/Keith Hart. RESTHOLD-PLUS.

SCALE: PINKALL - Must See
PILDRIVER - Excellent
POWERSLAM - Good
DRAW - Average
RESTHOLD - Fair
BOMB - Poor
PLUS - Midscale rating.

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[WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP]: Flair/Windham d. Josh/Morton. Flair had injured Rich's knee on floor so Morton allowed mid-match to team w. Josh. Ric/Barry double on Josh after until El Gigante saves but as he claws Barry, Vicious runs in until Josh chases Horsemen with axhandle; Sting d. Lou Fabiano; (6-MAN) Rhodes/Young Pistols d. Patrol/Dutch Mantel; JYD d. Boss; Zenk d. Mike Thor but Taylor runs in. Zenk decks him until Bubba Hughes enters. Taylor ambushes Zenk until Eaton saves; Owen Hart d. Cezana; (WRAPUP) Gordon w. WRESTLE WAR finish, Big

Daddy Dink; Luger d. Terry Bronson; (VIDEO) Nikita Koloff workout; Freebirds d. Larry Santo/Sawyer & continue beating until Pistols chase; One-Man Gang d. Ranger Ross & splashes three 747s until Simmons runs in, slams Teddy Long over top; Vicious d. Mike DeBacco. RESTHOLD-PLUS.

[MAIN EVENT]: Pillman vs. Windham double countout. Arn/Barry work over Brian's arm after but Steiners save; Rhodes d. Chuck Coates; Dan Spivey d. Scott Williams; Pistols d. Patrol; Eaton/Zenk d. Taylor/Landell. POWERSLAM.

(WCW/SYN) - [WORLD WIDE]: Rhodes d. Maggs; (VIDEO) Koloff workout; Lex Luger d. Snake Watson; Taylor d. Nelson; Ricky Morton d. Windham by DQ when Vicious runs in for powerbomb. But Pillman saves, chases both heels & tosses gurney at them; Freebirds d. Junkyard Dog/Rich; Ron Simmons d. Rip Rogers but masked man runs in after & Ron unmask him; Rich/Big Josh d. State Patrol. DRAW-PLUS.

[WCW PRO]: Rich/Josh d. Mike Samples/Hart; Rhodes d. Sawyer; Windham d. Angel; (LARRY Z'S LEGENDS) Larry w. Diamond Dallas Page; Pillman d. Arn Anderson by DQ when Vicious runs in. Rhodes/Rich/Josh save; Taylor vs. Eaton becomes Taylor/Buddy Landell vs. Eaton/Tom Zenk tag match when partners come to ring; Simmons d. Angel but Butch Reed runs in & the 2 brawl to dressing room; OTHER WINNER: Larry Zbyszko. DRAW-PLUS.

(USWA/WMC) - [ARENA/8-MAN] Jerry Lawler/Jackie Fargo/Gilbert/Jarrett d. Terry Funk/Prichard/Embry/Tojo Yamamoto but Embry/Prichard destroy Lawler/Fargo after; [STUDIO] Embry/Prichard attack Davis & Scorpion before opener; Gilbert d. O'Reilly by DQ but Embry/Prichard run in, double DDT Eddie before Steve Keirn saves; (From DALLAS/SOUTHERN TITLE) Prichard d. Jarrett when Embry KOs Jeff during ref bump; Dundee d. Duce Mason; Jarrett/Travis d. Mickey Jay/Keith Robertson; (ARENA) Austin d. Dundee w. loaded glove; Austin d. Chris Frazier; Curtis Thompson/T.D. Steel d. Texas Hangmen by DQ when Hangmen deck ref Paul Heyman Sr. Jarrett saves w. chair. RESTHOLD.

LINES OF THE WEEK

1. Craig DeGeorge, UWF, on Cactus Jack's blood: "Wow, did he blade!" 2. Willie Nelson, WWF-SU: "The difference between me and the Macho King is I'm gonna be singing 'Oh beautiful for spacious skies' and he'll be singing 'on the ropes again.'" 3. Bobby Heenan, WM7, on Virgil: "He's like George Foreman on Nutri-System." 4. Heenan, WM7, on Virgil: "He's got more steps than The Temptations." 5. Hawk, WM7: "When we get through with you, you'll be SOUR and GORY." 6. Heenan, WM7, on Davey Boy: "If he's got broken ribs, he could get another one from his mutt." 7. Tom Prichard, ESPN: "I wasn't born. I was released." 8. Jim Ross/Paul E. Dangerously, PH: (JR) "Dustin Rhodes bears a striking resemblance to his father." (PED) "Guess you can't blame the milkman." 9.

Ross/Paul E., WCW, on Mike Thor's hair: (JR) "Floyd the Barber in Mayberry would've done a better job in barber school." (PE) "He looks like Barney Rubble. Haircut by Joe Blockhead."

10. Paul E., PH, on Steiners-Freebirds: "They're gonna show that on AMERICA'S MOST WANTED as a case of highway robbery."

11. Roddy Piper, WWF-SU: "Is it smart for me to come to ringside with Virgil? I don't know if it was smart for me to jump 5 cars with a motorcycle, even though I'm no Evel Knievel." 12. Dale Gagner, SATURDAY NIGHT AT RINGSIDE, on upcoming match with Golden Idol: "We're gonna dress him up like a maid. Well, that shouldn't bother him. He's a cross-dresser anyway." 13. Golden Idol, SNR: "When I'm done with Gagner, he'll be running to someone with open arms---Richard Simmons!"

14. Paul E., PH, on Pillman: "He's like Buford Pusser walking in with his 2x4." 15. D. Dallas Page, WCW PRO, on facing Freebirds: "It's like shooting spitballs at a battleship."

16. Ed Sharkey, SNR, on team of The Splash/Tommy Ferrara/J.W. Storm: "This is the mother of all tag team combinations. We're gonna call them FIRST STRIKE." 17. Gordon Solie, WWW, on Ms. York: "I wonder if there's some sort of Napoleonic complex there." 18. Steve Armstrong, WCW, on Page: "Your entourage looks like something out of Freak Show magazine."

STRONGEST COMMENT - Ross/Paul E., PH: (PE) "Who does the firing around here anyway?" (JR) "You've been fired around here before. You should know the process."

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK - 1. Paul E., WCW: "Does this trio make Dustin Rhodes a Young Pistol or the Young Pistols a pair of Naturals?" 2. Paul E., WCW: "How would you like to go through life with a haircut like Mike Thor?"

NICKNAMES OF THE WEEK - 1. BARNEY, GOMER & WARREN (Ross on Patrol/Dutch Mantel).

ENGLISH LESSON - Jeff Jarrett, WMC: "I have WENT to Eddie Marlin. I have WENT to the Board of Governors."

SEXIST REMARK - Paul E., WCW: "Page's broad looks better than Missy."

BEST PICTURES - 1. WM7, Savage-Liz post-match. 2. WM7, Hogan juicing. 3. WM7, Willie Nelson wearing WWF merchandise. 3. LUCHA LIBRE, Konan-Aguayo-Dos Mil match. 4. ALL JAPAN, Rocky Laukea attacking Richard Slinger w. fish net. 5. WWF-SU, Viking's fly over top onto Brazil.

ALL-CLICHE TEAM - 1. Gorilla Monsoon, WM7: "...close but no cigar." 2. Monsoon, WM7: "...history has been made." 3. Monsoon, WM7: "...the largest pay-per-view audience in pay-per-view history." 4. Monsoon, WM7: "...time will tell." 5. Vince McMahon, WWF-SU: "...asks no quarter and gives none." 6. Piper, WWF: "...tougher than nails." 7. Sting, WWW: "...can't stand the heat, get out of the kitchen." 8. El Gigante, WWW: "...I WAN DA BELLT."

DREADED GLITCHES - 1. WWF/WM7, for tape countdown blips getting on air. 2. WM7, Mean Gene's audio going out.

BLOOPER AWARDS - 1. Michael St. John, ESPN: "Jo Jo (Night Train) Davis." 2. USWA/ESPN, for showing bald Tony Falk in first match and Falk with hair in the next three. 3. Gordon Solie, WWW, for calling Dustin Rhodes DUSTY. 3. JYD, WCW: "Ron Reed." 4. Monsoon, WM7, calling Warrior "Warlord."

BOO AWARD - 1. Tiger Jeet Singh, NEW JAPAN, for spewing at least 13 obscenities during interview last week.

Ref Bump Changes Finish

**DUSTY FINISH FOR FLAIR-FUJINAMI;
STEINERS CAPTURE TRIPLE TAG CROWN**

TOKYO---In a Xerox finish of the Road Warriors' loss at STARRCADE '87 and loosely based on Dusty Rhodes' NWA title win and subsequent reversal at STARRCADE '85, Ric Flair retained the WCW world title before 64,000 Thursday night at the Egg Dome over Tatsumi Fujinami, the apparent winner until a post-match press conference.

In another highlight of the Supershow spectacular, to be seen on Viewer's Choice pay-per-view April 7, Rick and Scott Steiner won the IWGP world tag team championship. The Steiners become the first team to hold both the WCW world and U.S. belts and an international title simultaneously.

The Flair-Fujinami WCW vs. IWGP world title unification bout erupted in controversy when referee Bill Alphonso was decked. Fujinami threw Flair over the top rope. Alphonso continued to play the groggy role as a Japanese referee came to the ring and counted Flair's shoulders for the fall as the sellout crowd exploded. But Alphonso claimed post-match he saw the over-the-top toss by Fujinami. In a post-match news conference, Fujinami was being regarded as the double champion by the Japanese media but Flair stormed into the conference room and reclaimed the WCW belt to set up the rematch May 19 at the pay-per-view SUPERBRAWL in St. Petersburg.

In a rematch of the Sting-Great Muta series of the summer of 1989, Keiji Mutoh defeated Sting after blowing green mist in Sting's eyes. WCW chief Jim Herd has not confirmed reports the Sting-Mutoh match may be edited out of the two-hour PPV presentation because of Sting's loss. The audience was said to be not happy with the finish. Similarly, the DOOM vs. Bam Bam Bigelow-Big Van Vader, won by Bigelow/Vader, is a definite scratch because of the previous American breakup of Ron Simmons and Butch Reed. In another key collision, Barry Windham and Arn Anderson came home as victors.

According to wrestling journalists in Tokyo, the Flair-Fujinami reversal was not announced to the crowd as New Japan officials feared a crowd riot. The show was not a sellout until the morning of the event. But Japanese newspapers and American insiders present report fans camped on the Egg Dome lawn overnight to get the final tickets. World Championship Wrestling and New Japan Pro Wrestling have reportedly reached agreement to book a second joint Egg Dome show next January.

**WWF SWEEPS
TOP SLOTS**



Six-Page Feature

VINCE: 2-1 IN SI

Spurred by the pre-WRESTLEMANIA momentum, the WWF swept the top three slots in the Nielsen cable ratings race for the week ending March 18.

The Sunday night airing of SUPERSTARS AND STRIPES FOREVER was a solid number one for the week with a 3.8 rating and 6.8 per cent share, drawing 2.09 million homes on USA. The Monday night repeat held up with a 3.3/5.1. Earlier on the 17th, ALL-AMERICAN WRESTLING had its third strong showing in the past four weeks with a 3.3/8.9.

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING matched its previous week's numbers with a 2.7. WCW MAIN EVENT, back from a week's absence, pulled even with its parent show, drawing a 2.7 for its Sting-Larry Zbyszko topline.

Biggest drop: WCW POWER HOUR, which fell back 26% from its strong 2.3 Saturday morning high of the week before.

NEW YORK---Barely four weeks after SPORTS ILLUSTRATED joined the ranks of national publications critical of the World Wrestling Federation's, Vince McMahon was virtually knighted in a six-page profile in SI's March 25 issue.

Writer William Oscar Johnson depicted the Titan empire as a \$500 million company, though pay-per-view revenues and subscription rates were inflated from Titan's p.r. machine.

In the article, McMahon took a poke at WCW owner Ted Turner: "Ted has trouble with the wrestling genre. This is a highly specialized product---unique---requiring marketing skills not available in normal marketing situations. Our competition is not from Ted, it is from the NBA...from Disney."

The piece came six years after SI offered an 18-page section on the national wrestling explosion.

CABLE

Week Ending March 25	Rating	Share	Total Homes
WWF SUPERSTARS/STRIPES (USA 3/17)	3.8	6.8	2.09 million
WWF ALL-AMERICAN (USA 3/17)	3.3	8.9	1.85 million
WWF SUPERSTARS/STRIPES (USA 3/18)	3.3	5.1	1.82 million
WCW WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP (TBS 3/16)	2.7	5.5	1.43 million
WCW MAIN EVENT (TBS 3/17)	2.7	5.2	1.42 million
WCW POWER HOUR (TBS 3/16)	1.7	6.5	961,000

**ABRAMS CLAIMS PPV
PLANS IN JUNE**

NEW YORK---Universal Wrestling Federation owner Herb Abrams is announcing plans for his first pay-per-view show June 9. A distributor has not been listed.

The show, which Abrams says will originate in Palmetto FL, has a Rick Rude-Paul Orndorff main event, according to media releases. Abrams also claims a face-to-face meeting will take place between former WWWF champions Buddy Rogers and Bruno Sammartino but MATWATCH has been told Rogers is saying he will not accept if asked, which as of deadline, he had not.

MATWATCH

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KHOSLOW'S CALL: Iron

Sheik Khoslow Vaziri received a ticket to come to WRESTLEMANIA Wednesday and was he'd be involved (as Col. Mustafa) in the main event. Another McMahon decoy.

A CORNY CALL?: Haven't been able to confirm this with Jim Cornette and chances are, he hasn't been called. But I was told by a WCW employee interest has been expressed in getting Corny back on TBS.

A WEAK WEEK: Crowds badly off last week for WCW. Poor houses in Columbia SC and Wilmington NC after a sellout and near-sellout the week before in St. Joe MO and Kansas City.

THIS SATURDAY: This weekend's WCW PRO features a hot Barry Windham-Brian Pillman showdown. But I'm told Saturday's WCW on TBS is a lackluster one.

RIGHT OR NOT?: Don Muraco is being announced for the UWF tapings upcoming in Florida but I'm told Muraco and at least one other billed performer will not be there.

HERBWATCH: Mike Sawyer's four-page interview with Herb Abrams in his LEGDROP bulletin has to be read to be believed. Herb talks of the "legions" of UWF fans and also addresses the alleged bounced checks, the Blackjack Mulligan and Bruiser Brody issues. Order a copy from Mike at 1515 S. Mojave/Space 107, Las Vegas NV 89104.

A FINAL UWF NOTE: At the last Pinta Hotel taping, the TV crew didn't show so a sub crew was brought in which I'm told had little experience in wrestling production. The taping took nearly five hours with no clean finishes in the competitive matches. Toward the end, Herb got in the ring between two of his people. The crowd yelled, "Beat up Herb!" One attendee told us when the last match began, between S.D. Jones and an unknown, most of the audience walked out.

BASH PREVIEWS: Expect some of Dusty's old BASH stock-in-trade: cage matches (though I hope not a repeat of the Triple Tower of Doom) and scaffold events. Bobby Eaton will be the face on the scaffold. Plans were to match him with Buddy Landell but that's out. Terry Taylor is said to be not crazy about climbing up on that thing (I'm with Terry), so Bobby's foe is still uncertain.

THE GREAT OUTDOORS: Saturday night on THE LARRY KATZ SHOW in Baltimore, a number of callers questioned the wisdom of WCW holding a July 5 BASH in RFK Stadium when it rarely draws well next door at the D.C. Armory. Even with a big 4th planned in Washington, I have to be skeptical of success.

THE AGENTS: Jim Herd is very pleased with Dusty's team of road agents, calling them the best yet in WCW. Terry Allen has had a firm hand. He recently told a performer who tried to beg off a TV taping for personal plans, "You're under contract to us. You be here." The performer changed the plans.

CLOSED OPEN HOUSE: Verne Langdon's "closed open house" at SLAMMERS WRESTLING GYM in Studio City CA was a big hit Sunday. A tribute to Gorgeous George was on tap, as well as SLAMMERS mat action. In addition to Ivan Koloff and Bobby Heenan cases, a set up Freddie Blassie's trunks and boots were donated.

CAULIFLOWER ALLEY: EMOTION RULES

By CHRIS CROSBY
MATWATCH West Coast Correspondent

LOS ANGELES---Terry Funk can leave you in stitches but Saturday night, he brought tears to the audience at the annual Cauliflower Alley Club night of honor.

Funk, one of several inductees into the Alley on the evening, telephoned Mike Mazurki from the podium. The evening was dedicated to Mazurki, who is in ill health. Funk said, "I've seen a lot of people here tonight, Mike, and I want you to know you have a lot of friends and they love you."

Among the wrestling veterans present were Gene LeBell, Diamond Lil, Sputnik Monroe, Dick (The Destroyer) Beyer, Duke Keomuka, Pepper Gomez, Penny Banner, Kenji Shibuya, Billy Robinson, Lou Thesz, Tex McKenzie, Cora Combs, Red Bastien and Sam Muchnick.

Alley members have worked extensively to raise money to aid in health care for retired wrestlers needing financial help.

MONDAY IN MEMPHIS: Toplining at the Pipkin Building were Jerry Lawler/Steve Keirn vs. Eric Embry/Tom Prichard. Eddie Gilbert/Jeff Jarrett vs. Texas Hangmen and a Danny Davis-Gary Young match were also on the bill.

A LINEAGE: A face to watch from the West Coast is young Carlos Torres. I'm told he has some tremendous moves and it's in his blood. He's a nephew of former NWA world tag team co-champion Ramon Torres.

THE WOMEN AGAIN: The Fabulous Moolah will headline a night of women's wrestling seniors at the Aladdin Hotel in Las Vegas in June. June Grable is also scheduled.

MARION RULES: Dennis Coraluzzo drew 1,500 for a WWA card in Marion OH. A Ronnie Garvin win over Paul Orndorff top-lined with Lanny Poffo and Motor City Madman Joe Daniels also on.

MORE DATES: Coraluzzo is working on four dates in Ohio and others in Pennsylvania and Massachusetts in May and June.

SUNCOAST NIGHT: Saturday night, Nasty Ned Brady defends his Suncoast Pro Southern title against Dick Slater.

LAST NOTES: Expect Steve Williams to eventually win the UWF TV title and thanks to John Arezzi for our guest shot on PRO WRESTLING SPOTLIGHT in New York Sunday.

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